

**Texas Juvenile Justice Department  
Response to the Independent Ombudsman  
First Quarter Report, FY 2014  
January 17, 2014**

The First Quarter report identified OIO activities for September through November 2013, with the main focus on summarizing OIO activities. The report briefly summarized the following areas of operation:

- Ongoing closure activities at the Corsicana Residential Treatment Center; and
- Operation of the agency's Phoenix Program.

**Corsicana Residential Treatment Center (CRTC)**

TJJD recommended closure of the CRTC in August 2013 and submitted its closure plan to the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) on September 1. A final decision from the LBB is pending regarding operation of the facility. However, operating the agency's Mental Health Treatment (MHT) Program under these uncertain conditions began to impact the safety and security of youth and staff both at CRTC and throughout the agency's other facilities, where staff openings were left unfilled to accommodate staff who wished to transfer once their facility was shuttered. Increasing staff shortages in all areas of operation required TJJD to move the MHT Program to the McLennan County Juvenile Correctional Facility in Mart, Texas on December 19, 2013. The MHT Program is now fully operational at the Mart facility and discussions about the future of the Corsicana facility continue with the LBB.

**Phoenix Update**

TJJD closely monitored the programming and service delivery of all phases of the Phoenix Program during the first quarter of FY 2014. On January 2, 2014, the agency began a substantial overhaul of the program, including:

- a drawdown of youth population to zero;
- a comprehensive re-training effort of all assigned staff;
- a staff assessment;
- a physical movement of the Phoenix Dorm from its existing location to different housing unit that better accommodates this population; and
- a gradual build-up and repopulation of the Phoenix Program.

Beginning the week of February 3-7, 2014, youth staffings will occur for re-entry into the Phoenix Program and youth movement back to Phoenix will begin. The youth repopulation plan calls for a gradual build-up of 4 youth per week, during the month of February 2014.

The agency believes these changes and trainings will have a significant positive impact on the operation and effectiveness of the Phoenix Program and ensure adherence to the original intent of the program.

We believe the valuable partnership with OIO plays an important role in ensuring the services the agency provides its youth remain relevant and dynamic.